



Discussion on Gender Strategy with The Platform for Collaboration on Tax (PCT) Partners Working Group
June 21, 2023 - Virtual meeting

On June 21, 2023, the World Bank Group (WBG) held a virtual discussion with [The Platform for Collaboration on Tax \(PCT\)](#) Partners Working Group. This included representatives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations (UN). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss early thinking on the WBG Gender Strategy for 2024-2030 and learn from the working group on opportunities and challenges for gender equality and empowerment. Key takeaways are summarised below and will be considered in the development of the Strategy.

Key Takeaways

- Participants from IMF appreciated the proposed direction of the Strategy and mentioned that it has complementary elements with the IMF Gender Strategy, including a focus on building a more resilient economy (through higher growth, greater stability, greater inclusion, stronger human capital), addressing current challenges like climate change, war, digital revolution, trade tensions, weak economic growth prospects and others. They added that according to their analysis, improving female labor force participation can improve expected economic growth even more than structural reform. Bridging gaps in female labor force participation can be seen as an opportunity to drive gender equality as well as economic gains and growth.
- It was further mentioned that the IMF Gender Strategy is focussing their expertise on macro critical gaps by establishing systemic criteria for engagement, providing tailored advice, capacity development support to members and leveraging external partnerships. It was also highlighted that IMF's fiscal affairs department works across workstreams, including labor force participation, public sector wages, health, education, public financial management and gender budgeting.
- IMF's tax policy and revenue administration team members shared that they make efforts to mainstream gender in their work. They will soon publish a technical note on gender and revenue administration, looking at current practices and policies to guide revenue administrations on assessing their work internally and influencing the broader community, including traders and taxpayers. Secondly, they mentioned planned workshops on gender for client countries. They added that the IMF has gone beyond just considering data on gender balance in tax administrations to exploring new case studies. Some of this new evidence showed gender gaps in uptake of digital services that hinder women's participation. Partners added that they are developing a survey for tax administrations that will include questions on gender.

- Finally, IMF partners highlighted their publication - [Gendered Taxes: The Interaction of Tax Policy with Gender Equality](#), analysing the relationship between tax policy design and gender equality. Following this publication, they are developing a tool to estimate disincentives for secondary workers, using administrative data (wherever available) from countries globally. The tool will disaggregate data by married and not-married women and compute how different types of tax systems create benefits for personal income taxes and disincentives for work. IMF offered to collaborate on this simulation for countries where partners had access to administrative tax data on personal income tax.
- Partners from the UN suggested that the work done by the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and UN Women might be useful for the proposed Strategy. They highlighted their work on gender responsive implementation of the [2030 agenda](#) across various aspects, including public expenditure. UN partners further mentioned [The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#), an expert body that has an inter-agency gender group and develops need based and easy to administer policy guidance for developing countries, focusing on SDGs and gender-responsive tax policies. An outcome of discussions shared was the [Financing for Sustainable Development Report \(FSDR\)](#), which looks at gender responsive tax policies among other fiscal policies. They added that this committee has been successful in encouraging gender balance in attendance at capacity development events over the years. The committee is planning a workshop on gender and taxation in July 2023.
- UN partners also suggested that capacity building for countries could simultaneously focus on bridging data gaps and disaggregating data by gender, to better inform policies.
- Partners from OECD shared two recent documents; [The OECD's Contribution to Promoting Gender Equality](#), which explains the overall OECD gender strategy, and [Joining Forces for Gender Equality](#), which analyzes developments and policies for gender equality, including the relationship between gender equity and tax and transfer systems.